a temperature over 85°C and at a pH between about 2-5 for sufficient time to remove at least 50% of the hexenuronic acid and to reduce the kappa number by at least 2 units; and

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(b) bleaching the chemical cellulose pulp produced by alkaline delignification having a kappa number under 24 in at least one bleaching stage.

Cancel claims 2 and 9 without prejudice.

Claims 3, 4, and 8, line 1 of each, change "2" to --1--.

Claim 6, line 1, change "3" to --1--.

Claim 7, line 1, change "6" to --1--.

Claim 10, line 1, change "9" to --1--.

Claims 14 and 16, line 3 of each, and claim 21, line 2, change "pc" to --post color--.

Claim 20, line 12, delete "simultaneously with," and insert --,-- after "after".

Add the following new claims:

--22. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein step (a) is practiced at a pH between about 3-4.

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23. A method as recited in claim 18 wherein step (b) is practiced at a pH between about 3-4.

24. A cellulose chemical pulp as recited in claim 20 wherein step (b) is practiced at a pH between about 3-4.

25. A method as recited in claim 3 wherein step (a) is practiced at a pH between about 3-4.

26. A method as recited in claim 25 wherein step (a) is practiced at a temperature at or above approximately 90°C.

27. A method of treating chemical cellulose pulp produced by alkaline delignification and having a kappa number of 25.9 or less, having hexenuronic acid therein, comprising the steps of:

(a) treating chemical cellulose pulp produced by alkaline delignification having a kappa number 25.9 or less at a solids consistency of between 0.1-50% by treating the pulp at a temperature over 85°C and at a pH between about 3-4 for a time t, where t = 0.5 exp(10517/(T+273)-24), in minutes, and where T is the treatment temperature in degrees C; and

(b) bleaching the chemical cellulose pulp produced by alkaline delignification having a kappa number 25.9 or less in at least one bleaching stage.

28. A method as recited in claim 27 wherein step (a) is practiced at a temperature of between about 90-180°C.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the 35 USC §112 rejection made at the bottom of page 3 of the previous Action in view of the present amendment and submission. The term "pc" is standard terminology for "post color", which is a recognized term in the chemistry of brightness reversion. Enclosed herewith is a copy of page 185 (as well as the title and cover pages) of a textbook authored by Drs. Dence and Reeve, recognized experts in the art, which describes what the post color number (or "pc number") is. Note also that the specification has been revised to